Tender for 3G component

465. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has been asked to review tender for 3G component;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there has been any objection especially from BSNL employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Sir, since the Government is yet to announce spectrum policy for 3G services, Board of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) had taken a review of the GSM tender with the possibility to restrict order to 2G component. BSNL employees had also raised their concern against possible restriction of order on 3G component and requested for immediate release of purchase order. However, based on the legal opinion, BSNL Board has decided to maintain the provision of the tender including 3G component.

Arrears due to MTNL and BSNL

466. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of arrears due to MTNL and BSNL; and

(b) the action taken to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEKL AHMAD): (a) The amount of outstanding arrears due to BSNL as on 1.1.2007 is as follows:

(i)	Landline connections	Rs. 3628.57 crores
(ii)	Cellular Mobile Telephones	Rs. 545.71 crores
	TOTAL:	Rs. 4174.28 crores

The outstanding arrears are only 1.59% and 7.50% of total billed amount for landline and cellular mobile telephone respectively.

The amount of outstanding arrears due to MTNL as on 30.06.2007 is as follows:

(i)	Basic Services	Rs. 1065.29 crores
(ii)	Cellular Mobile Telephones	Rs. 163.38 crores
	TOTAL:	Rs. 1228.67 crores

The outstanding arrears of MTNL has reduced from Rs. 1303.54 crores (as on 30.06.2006) to Rs. 1228.67 crores (as on 30.06.2007).

(b) Action taken to recover the dues are given in Statement-I and II (*See* below).